CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method comprising:

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- receiving from a remote site a request to access a first file having a plurality of blocks, said request having a pre-defined format encapsulating an original request of a client of a synchronous client-server system and in accordance with a pre-defined file system;
- determining, for each of at least some of said plurality of blocks, a differential portion representing a difference between each said block and a corresponding block of a second file; and sending said differential portion to said remote site.
- 15 2. The method of claim 1, comprising reconstructing said first file at said remote site based on said differential portion and said second file.
 - 3. The method of claim 1, comprising identifying one or more blocks of said first file with a unique ID corresponding to a content of said one or more blocks.
 - 4. The method of claim 1, comprising identifying one or more blocks of said first file with a hash value of the contents of said one or more blocks.
- 5. The method of claim 1, comprising receiving from said remote site a lock request when said remote site requests to modify said first file.
 - 6. The method of claim 1, comprising determining whether said second file correlates to said first file based on a heuristic.
- 7. The method of claim 6, comprising monitoring a modification performed on said first file.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving comprises receiving from said remote site a request to access said first file using a global name space of said client-server system.

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- 9. The method of claim 1, comprising receiving from said remote site a request for authentication using a pass-through challenge-response mechanism.
- 10. The method of claim 1, comprising processing a set of credentials for authentication.
 - 11. The method of claim 1, comprising storing said differential portion in a directory for later retrieval of a version of said first file.
- 15 12. The method of claim 1, comprising setting a read-only access permission to a files is said remote site if said remote site is non communicating.
 - 13. The method of claim 1, comprising storing in a cache at least one block of said second file.

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14. A method comprising:

receiving from a remote site a request to access a first file, said request having a pre-defined format encapsulating an original request of a client of a synchronous client-server system and in accordance with a pre-defined file system;

determining, based on a heuristic, that said first file correlates to a second file having similar data;

determining a differential portion representing a difference between said first file and said second file; and

sending said differential portion to said remote site.

15. A system comprising:

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a first computing platform having access to a first file and a second file, the first file having a plurality of blocks; and

a second computing platform having access to said first file,

wherein said first computing platform is able to receive from said second computing platform a request to access said second file, said request having a pre-defined format encapsulating an original request of a client of a synchronous client-server system and in accordance with a pre-defined file system,

wherein said first computing platform is able to determine, for each of at least some of said plurality of blocks, a differential portion representing a difference between each said block and a corresponding block of said second file,

and wherein said first computing platform is able to send said differential portion to said second computing platform.

- 16. The system of claim 14, wherein said second computing platform is able to reconstruct said second file based on said differential portion and said first file.
- 17. The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to identify one or more blocks of said second file with a unique ID which corresponds to a content of said one or more blocks.
- 18. The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to identify one or more blocks of said second file with a hash value of the contents of said one or more blocks.
- 19. The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to receive from said second computing platform a lock request when said second computing platform requests to modify said second file.

- 20. The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to determine whether said first file correlates to said second file based on a heuristic.
- 21. The system of claim 19, wherein said first computing platform is able to monitor a modification performed on said first file.

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- 22. The system of claim 14, wherein said first file and said second file share a global name space.
 - 23. The system of claim 14 wherein said first computing platform is able to receive from said second computing platform a request for authentication using a pass-through challenge-response mechanism.
 - 24. The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to receive from said second computing platform a set of credentials for authentication.
- 25. The system of claim 14, wherein said first computing platform is able to store said differential portion in a directory associated with an archived version of said second file.
- 26. The system of claim 14, comprising a cache to store at least one block of said first file.
 - 27. A computing platform able to determine, based on a heuristic, that a first file correlates to a second file having similar contents, to calculate a differential portion representing a difference between said first file and said second file, and to send said differential portion to another computing platform.